IN THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, in this application.

Claims 1-5 (canceled)

6. (currently amended) A process to produce a composition containing 5'-ribonucleotides which comprises:

(i) treating microbial cells to release the cell contents comprising RNA,

(ii) separating the RNA present in the released cell contents from other soluble cell material smaller than 50 kDa, and

(iii) converting the separated RNA into 5'-ribonucleotides;

whereby the process is used to produce a composition containing 5'-ribonucleotides.

7. (original) A process according to claim 6, wherein the native enzymes of the microbial cells are inactivated prior to treating the microbial cells to release the cell contents.

8. (previously presented) A process according to claim 6, wherein the cells are treated enzymatically, chemically or mechanically.

9. (previously presented) A process according to claim 6, wherein the cells are treated enzymatically.

10. (previously presented) A process according to claim 6, wherein solid material originating from the microbial cells is removed prior to separating the RNA present in the released cell content from other soluble cell material.

11. (original) A process according to claim 10, wherein the solid material is removed by centrifugation or filtration.

12. (previously presented) A process according to claim 6, wherein the separation of the RNA from the other soluble cell material is carried out by ultrafiltration with a filter and the RNA is recovered in the filter's retentate.

13. (previously presented) A process according to claim 6, wherein the separated RNA is enzymatically converted into 5'-ribonucleotides.

14. (previously presented) A process according to claim 6, wherein the 5'-ribonucleotides are further purified by the removal of compounds having a higher molecular weight than the 5'-ribonucleotides.

15. (original) A process according to claim 14, wherein the removal of compounds having a higher molecular weight than the 5'-ribonucleotides is carried out by ultrafiltration.

Claims 16-19 (canceled)

20. (currently amended) A process to produce a composition containing 5'-ribonucleotides which comprises:

(i) treating microbial cells to release their contents comprising RNA,

(ii) separating the RNA present in the released cell contents from other soluble cell material smaller than 50 kDa, and

(iii) converting the separated RNA into 5'-ribonucleotides;

whereby the process is used to produce a composition containing at least 55% w/w (based on the NaCl free, dry matter weight) of 5'-ribonucleotides.

21. (previously presented) A process according to claim 6, wherein the composition comprises at least 65% w/w (based on the NaCl free, dry matter weight) of 5'-ribonucleotides.

22. (previously presented) A process according to claim 6, wherein the composition comprises at least 75% w/w (based on the NaCl free, dry matter weight) of 5'-ribonucleotides.

23. (previously presented) A process according to claim 6, wherein the composition comprises 0.01 to 10% w/w (based on the NaCl dry matter weight) of glutamate.

24. (previously presented) A process according to claim 6, wherein the composition comprises more 5'-GMP than the sum of 5'-IMP and 5'-AMP.

25. (previously presented) A process according to claim 6, wherein the cells are treated with a protease.

26. (previously presented) A process according to claim 6, wherein the separated RNA is enzymatically converted into 5'-ribonucleotides by 5'-phosphodiesterase.

27. (previously presented) A process according to claim 6, wherein the separated RNA is enzymatically converted into 5'-ribonucleotides by 5'-phosphodiesterase and deaminase.

28. (previously presented) A process according to claim 6, wherein the microbial cells are yeast.

29. (previously presented) A process according to claim 6, wherein the microbial cells are *Saccharomyces cerevisiae*.

30. (currently amended) A process to produce a composition containing 5'-ribonucleotides which comprises:

(i) treating microbial cells to release their cell contents comprising RNA,

(ii) separating the RNA present in the released cell contents from other soluble cell material smaller than 50 kDa by ultrafiltration with a filter having a molecular weight cut-off from 10 kD to 50 kD,

(iii) recovering the separated RNA ~~is recovered~~ in the filter's retentate,

(iii) converting enzymatically the recovered RNA into 5'-ribonucleotides, and

(iv) purifying the 5'-ribonucleotides by removal of compounds having a higher molecular weight than the 5'-ribonucleotides;

whereby the process is used to produce a composition containing 5'-ribonucleotides.